






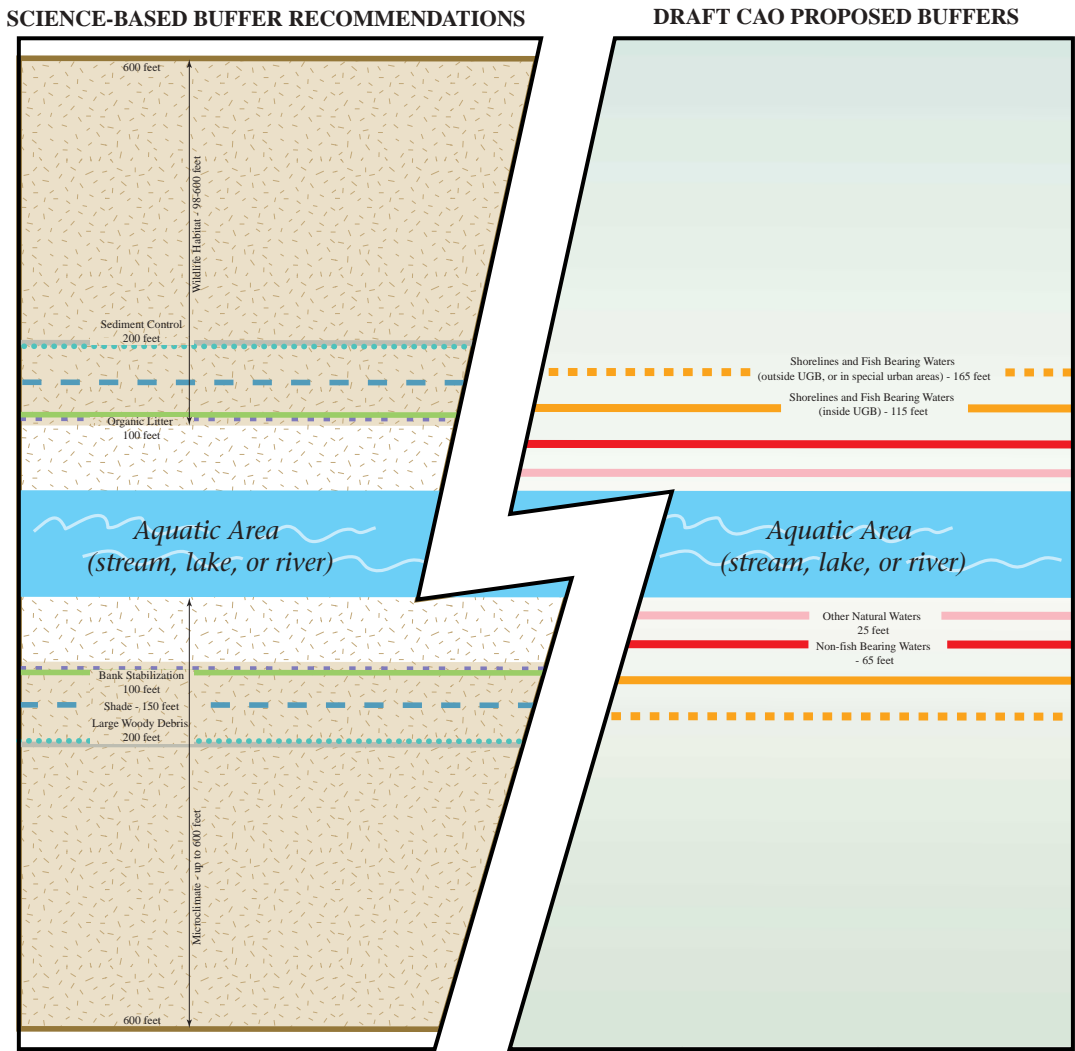


# Aquatic Areas Buffers (streams, lakes, rivers, shorelines)





Different buffer widths are needed to protect different functions:

SCIENCE-BASED BUFFER RECOMMENDATIONS		
SYMBOL	FUNCTION	BUFFER WIDTH
	Shade	150 feet
	Microclimate	up to 600 feet
	Large Woody Debris	200 feet
	Organic Litter	100 feet
	Sediment Control	200 feet
	Bank Stabilization	100 feet
	Wildlife Habitat	98-600 feet

Note: Information taken from Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team (FEMAT) (1993).



The draft Critical Areas Ordinance proposes different buffer widths depending on the type of water body and its potential as fish habitat. Buffers are different for water bodies located inside or outside the Urban Growth Boundary.

DRAFT CAO PROPOSED BUFFERS			
SYMBOL	BODIES OF WATER (Called Aquatic Areas)	BUFFERS WITHIN THE URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY	BUFFERS OUTSIDE THE URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY
 	<b>Type S or F waters</b> S = shorelines, including large streams and rivers, lakes larger than 20 acres, and marine shorelines.  F = natural water bodies that contain fish habitat. A water body is presumed to contain fish habitat if it: ¥ is greater than 2 feet wide. ¥ has less than 20% grade ¥ has no natural blockage downstream  <b>Special Urban Type S or F waters</b>	115 feet	165 feet
	<b>Type N waters</b> N = other natural waters that flow to Type S or F waters	65 feet	65 feet
	<b>Type O waters</b> O = other natural waters that do not flow to Type S, F or N waters	25 feet	25 feet

Note: Buffers are measured from the ordinary high water mark of the water body, or the outside edge of the severe channel migration zone, if one is mapped.

## Flexible Reporting Requirements

When altering land in a critical area or its buffer certain reports may be required. King County aims to make these requirements simpler and more flexible.

- Critical Areas Review - required for proposal to develop or alter a critical area or its buffer.
- Major Habitat Evaluation — required for some projects that do not to comply with proposed standards. This type of report could enable site-specific protections, allowing more flexibility in development options.

*Note: For some activities, there may be more reporting requirements than under current regulations.*